

Serial No.: 10/024,268

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Claims 3, 5, 10, 11, 15, 17, and 23 - 24 have been canceled. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 12-14, 16, and 18-22 are being amended herein. New Claims 25 and 26 have been added. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection Under 35 USC § 112

Claims 6, 7, 13, and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC 112. Claims 6, 7, 13, and 18 have been amended to remove the typographical errors and the ambiguous references to "identified subscriber station" and "identified subscriber device".

II. Rejection Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being unpatentable over US Patent 5,610,970 to Fuller et al.

General Discussion of Fuller et al. and the Applicant's Invention

Fuller et al. is directed to telephone system which forwards a subscriber's incoming telephoto calls to various telephony lines. In one mode of operation the forwarding to particular telephone line is based on a pre-programmed time schedule. Examples including programming the system to forward calls to the subscriber's home phone, office phone, cell phone, or pager – based on the time of day (see generally C1, L28-33).

In one embodiment Fuller et al. teaches a system for automated forwarding of a call to a telephone close to the subscriber's physical location, but the system taught by Fuller et al. is functionally and structurally distinct from applicants claimed invention.

The Fuller et al system uses ultrasonic transmitters, each broadcasting the telephone number of a telephone located in the same room as the ultrasonic transmitter.

A device called a communicator (described at C 12, L5 through C13, L 18) is

carried by the subscriber. When the subscriber enters a room, the communicator detects the ultrasonic signal to obtain the telephone number and the communicator sends, by RF network communication, a message back to the call forwarding system. The message is an instruction to forward the subscriber's telephone calls to the telephone number detected by the ultra-sonic transmitter.

Such a system is significantly different from the applicant's claimed invention. In the applicant's claimed invention, automated routing of a subscriber's telephone calls to a particular telephony station is performed by the system detecting the subscriber's portable device docked at the telephony station. More specifically, when a subscriber is near a telephony station, he or she docks his or her portable computing device to the telephone station. The system obtains the device ID from the subscriber's docked portable device and routes his or her calls to the telephony station at which his or her device is docked. More specifically, the subscriber station to which the subscriber has docked his or her portable device is docked obtains the device ID and forwards such device ID to the system that controls the call routing.

Independent Claim 1

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a multi-media communication management system for operation with a plurality of subscriber stations 24. Each subscriber station 24 includes a docking interface 62 for communicating with a subscriber's portable device 90 when such portable computing device is coupled to the docking interface 62 by the subscriber.

Each subscriber station 24 also includes a telephony user interface (100, 102, 98, and/or 130) for generating an incoming telephone call signal to signal the subscriber upon remote initiation of an audio session and providing audio input and output for supporting the audio session.

The multi-media communication management system comprises a network communication circuit and a communication gateway. The communication gateway is coupled to the network communication circuit and includes:

1. means for receiving, from a communication originating device, an audio initiation signal, the audio session initiation signal including a subscriber identification (See Figures 11 and 2) uniquely associated with a subscriber;
2. means for identifying a terminating subscriber telephony station, the terminating subscriber telephony station being the one of the plurality of subscriber stations 24 to which a portable device that includes a subscriber device ID that associates with the subscriber identification is then currently coupled (see Figures 11 and 12), and
3. means for initiating an audio session between the originating device and the terminating subscriber telephony station for audio input and output of the audio session by the user interface of such terminating subscriber station (see Figure 11).

Neither Fuller et al. nor the other art of record discloses such a system. More specifically, Fuller et al. fails to disclose a system operating with a plurality of subscriber stations, each of which includes a docking interface. Further, Fuller et al. fails to disclose an automated routing system that operates by: i) identifying a terminating subscriber telephony station, the terminating subscriber telephony station being the one of the plurality of subscriber stations 24 to which a portable device that includes a subscriber device ID that associates with the subscriber identification is then currently coupled, and ii) initiating the audio session to such terminating subscriber station.

Independent Claim 6

Claim 6, as amended, is directed to a multi-media communication management system for operation with a plurality of subscriber stations. Like claim 1, each subscriber station 24 includes a docking interface 62 and a telephony user interface (100, 102, 98, and/or 130).

The multi-media communication management system comprises a network communication circuit and a communication gateway coupled to the network

communication circuit. The communication gateway comprises:

1. means for receiving, from a communication originating device, an audio session initiation signal, the audio session initiation signal including a subscriber identification uniquely associated with a subscriber; and
2. means for recording an audio message received from the originating device through the audio session in response to determining that the subscriber's portable device is not coupled to a docking interface of a subscriber station.

Neither Fuller et al. nor the other art of record discloses such a system. More specifically, Fuller et al. fails to disclose a system operating with a plurality of subscriber stations, each of which includes a docking interface. Further, Fuller et al. fails to disclose opening an audio session with the originating device and recording an audio message received from the originating device through the audio session in response to determining that the subscriber's portable device is not coupled to a docking interface 62 of a subscriber station 24.

Independent Claim 7

Claim 7, as amended, is directed to a multi-media communication management system for operation with a plurality of subscriber stations. Again, each subscriber station 24 includes a docking interface 62 and a telephony user interface (100, 102, 98, and/or 130).

The multi-media communication management system comprises a network communication circuit and each of a session control server and a communication gateway coupled to the network communication circuit.

The session control server comprises:

1. means for receiving a message from a subscriber station identifying which of a plurality of subscriber portable devices is then currently coupled to the docking interface of the subscriber station;
2. means for recording, in a location table, an association between the subscriber and the subscriber telephony station to which the subscriber's

portable device is then currently coupled.

The communication gateway comprises:

1. means for receiving, from a communication originating device, an audio session initiation signal, the audio session initiation signal including a subscriber identification uniquely associated with a subscriber;
2. means for querying the location table to identify a terminating subscriber station, the terminating subscriber station being the subscriber station associated with the subscriber in the location table; and
3. means for initiating an audio session between the originating device and the terminating subscriber station for audio input and output of the audio session by the user interface of such terminating subscriber station.

Neither Fuller et al. nor the other art of record discloses such a system. More specifically, Fuller et al. fails to disclose a system operating with a plurality of subscriber stations, each of which includes a docking interface.

Further, Fuller et al. fails to disclose a session control server that : i) receives a message from a subscriber station identifying which of a plurality of subscriber portable devices is then currently coupled to the docking interface of the subscriber station; and records, in a location table, an association between the subscriber and the subscriber telephony station to which the subscriber's portable device is then currently coupled.

Independent Claim 13

Claim 13, as amended, is directed to a method of providing audio communication routing to a subscriber in a multi-media communication management system comprising a plurality of subscriber stations. Again, each subscriber station 24 includes a docking interface 62 and a telephony user interface (100, 102, 98, and/or 130).

The method comprises the steps of:

1. receiving, from a communication originating device, an audio session

initiation signal, the audio session initiation signal including a subscriber identification uniquely associated with a subscriber;

2. identifying a terminating subscriber station, the terminating subscriber station being the one of the plurality of subscriber stations to which a portable device that includes a subscriber device ID that associates with the subscriber identification is then currently coupled,
3. initiating an audio session between the originating device and the terminating subscriber telephony station for audio input and output of the audio session by the user interface of such terminating subscriber station.

Neither Fuller et al. nor the other art of record discloses such method. More specifically, Fuller et al. fails to disclose a method operating such a system operates with a plurality of subscriber stations, each of which includes a docking interface. Further, Fuller et al. fails to disclose an automated routing system that operates by: i) identifying a terminating subscriber telephony station, the terminating subscriber telephony station being the one of the plurality of subscriber stations 24 to which a portable device that includes a subscriber device ID that associates with the subscriber identification is then currently coupled, and ii) initiating the audio session to such terminating subscriber station.

Independent Claim 18

Claim 18, as amended, is directed to a method of providing audio communication routing to a subscriber in a multi-media communication management system comprising a plurality of subscriber stations. Again, each subscriber station 24 includes a docking interface 62 and a telephony user interface (100, 102, 98, and/or 130).

The method comprising:

1. means for receiving, from a communication originating device, an audio session initiation signal, the audio session initiation signal including a subscriber identification uniquely associated with a subscriber; and

2. means for recording an audio message received from the originating device through the audio session in response to determining that the subscriber's portable device is not coupled to a docking interface of a subscriber station.

Neither Fuller et al. nor the other art of record discloses such a method. More specifically, Fuller et al. fails to disclose a method of operating a system which operates with a plurality of subscriber stations, each of which includes a docking interface. Further, Fuller et al. fails to disclose opening an audio session with the originating device and recording an audio message received from the originating device through the audio session in response to determining that the subscriber's portable device is not coupled to a docking interface 62 of a subscriber station 24.

Independent Claim 19

Claim 19, as amended, is directed to a method of providing audio communication routing to a subscriber in a multi-media communication management system comprising a plurality of subscriber stations. Again, each subscriber station 24 includes a docking interface 62 and a telephony user interface (100, 102, 98, and/or 130).

The method comprises:

1. receiving a message from a subscriber station identifying which of a plurality of subscriber portable devices is then currently coupled to the docking interface of the subscriber station;
2. recording, in a location table, an association between the subscriber and the subscriber telephony station to which the subscriber's portable device is then currently coupled.
4. receiving, from a communication originating device, an audio session initiation signal, the audio session initiation signal including a subscriber identification uniquely associated with a subscriber;
5. querying the location table to identify a terminating subscriber station, the terminating subscriber station being the subscriber station associated with

the subscriber in the location table; and

6. initiating an audio session between the originating device and the terminating subscriber station for audio input and output of the audio session by the user interface of such terminating subscriber station.

Neither Fuller et al. nor the other art of record discloses such a method. More specifically, Fuller et al. fails to disclose a method of operating a system that operates with a plurality of subscriber stations, each of which includes a docking interface.

Further, Fuller et al. fails to disclose receiving a message from a subscriber station identifying which of a plurality of subscriber portable devices is then currently coupled to the docking interface of the subscriber station; and records, in a location table, an association between the subscriber and the subscriber telephony station to which the subscriber's portable device is then currently coupled.

Claims 2, 4, 8, 9, 12, 14, 16, 20-22, and 25-26.

Each of claims 2, 4, 8, 9, 12, 14, 16, 20-23, and 25-26 are dependent upon either independent claim 1, 7, 13, or 19 and are distinguishable over Fuller et al and the other art of record for at least the same reasons. Further, the elements set forth in each of claims 2, 4, 8, 9, 12, 14, 16, 20-22, and 25-26 further distinguish such claims over Fuller et al. and the other art of record.

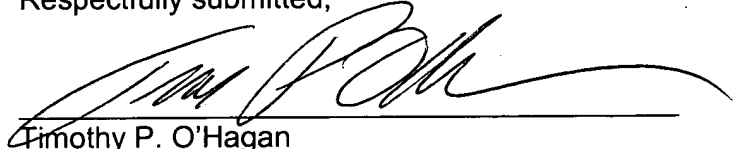
III. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4, 6-9, 12-14, 16, 18-22, and 25-26 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tim O'Hagan', is written over a horizontal line.

Timothy P. O'Hagan
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DATE: 11/11/2005

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